



Illinois State Board of Education

Jesse Ruiz, Board Chair  
Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

## Illinois report cards

Project update to the P-20 Council

July 27, 2011

THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP

# Context and objectives for today's discussion

## Context

**The P-20 council subcommittee on data and accountability has been leading an effort to develop a breakthrough report card for schools and districts in Illinois**

**Working with the Boston Consulting Group, the Steering and Advisory Committees have created an alpha version of the report card through –**

- Benchmarking report card strategies of other states and cities
- Interviewing P-20 committee members, stakeholders and experts
- Assessing data availability and feasibility

## Objectives for today

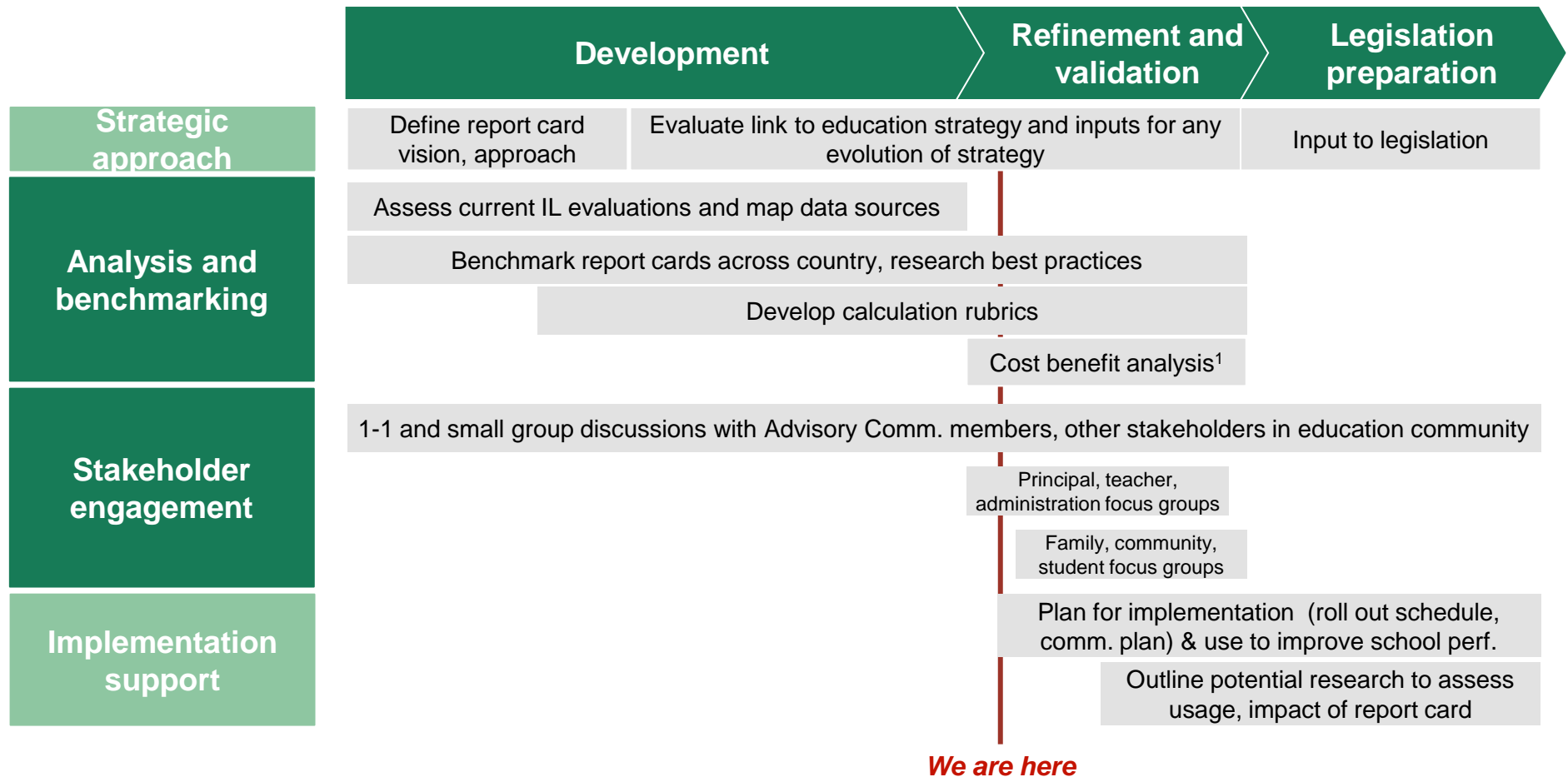
**Review project approach and context**

**Discuss alpha version of report cards developed for focus group testing**

**Share plan for upcoming focus groups**

**Align on the path forward**

# The team is now in the refinement and validation phase



1. For new metrics.  
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# Over 40 committee members, stakeholders, experts engaged to develop the alpha version of the report card

## Committee members

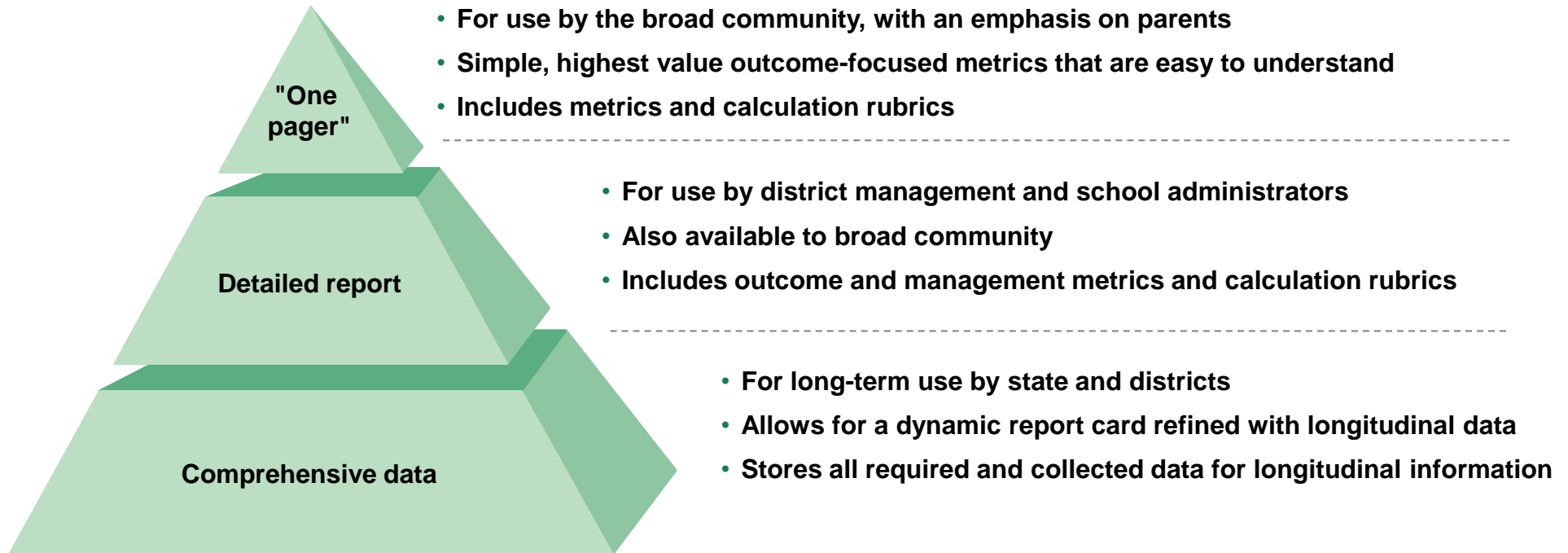
Amy Nowell, CPS  
Ann Courter, P20 Council Policy Analyst  
Conor Reilley, Student Advisory Council  
Dan Brown, ISBE, Student Assessment  
Dan Harris, Ounce of Prevention  
Deb Strauss, Illinois PTA<sup>2</sup>  
Don White, Troy District  
Elaine Johnson, ICCB  
Erika Hunt, IL State, College of Education<sup>2</sup>  
George Reid, IBHE  
Harvey Smith, IL Interactive Report Card  
Kathy Ryg, Voices for Children  
Larry Frank, IEA/NEA  
Larry Joseph, Voices for Children  
Lizanne DeStefano, U of I at Champaign<sup>1,2</sup>  
Melissa Mitchell, Fed'n of Community Schools  
Mike Jacoby, IL Assoc. of School Business Officials  
Myles Gearon, Student Advisory Council  
Rich Voltz, IL Assoc School Administrators  
Sean German, IL Principals Association  
Sharod Gordon, Target Area Development  
Steve Cordogan, Township HS District 214

## Stakeholders and other experts

Bernard Cesarone, IECAM – University of Illinois  
Brad White, IERC Senior Researcher  
Dawn Thomas, IECAM - University of Illinois  
Denis Roarty, UIC  
Elaine Allensworth, Consortium on Chicago School Research  
Eric Ashton, NYC DOE  
Eric Hirsch, New Teacher Center  
Gary Niehaus, Bloomington Normal, Unit 5  
Jason Tyszko, Dept of Commerce & Economic Opp'ty<sup>2</sup>  
Jeff White, LAUSD  
Jim O'Connor, Advance Illinois<sup>2</sup>  
Joellyn Whitehead, INCCRA  
John Rico, Rico Enterprises  
Jonathan Cowan, KIPP  
Melissa Robbins, Devry Inc.<sup>2</sup>  
Nick Montgomery, Consortium on Chicago School Research  
Paul Zavitkovsky, UIC, Urban Education Program  
Ron Bullock, Bison Gear<sup>2</sup>  
Sara Stoelinga, UChicago, Urban Education Institute  
Sean Waldheim, Teach for America  
Tim Knowles, UChicago, Urban Education Institute

1. P-20 Council Member 2. Members of other P-20 committees

# Recap: A three tier pyramid logic utilized for the report card



**Project focus is on prioritizing highest value metrics around guiding questions to create simple, valuable report cards**

# Guiding questions are the starting point for the report cards

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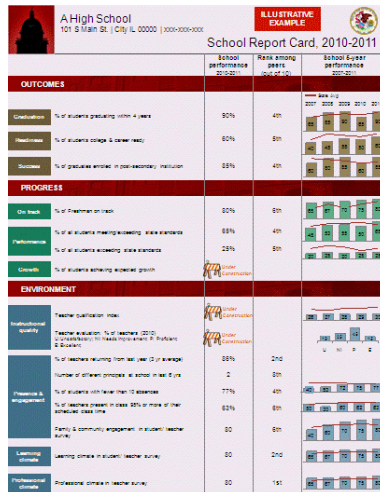
- 1 Are students achieving quality **outcomes**?
- 2 Are students making **progress** toward quality outcomes?
- 3 Is the school/district **environment** conducive to enabling quality outcomes and progress?

----- District only -----

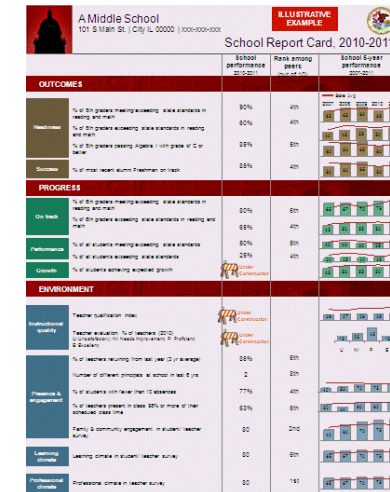
- 4 Is the district providing **resources and leadership** to enable quality outcomes and progress?

# Alpha version of one-pagers developed for each school level and district level for testing in focus groups

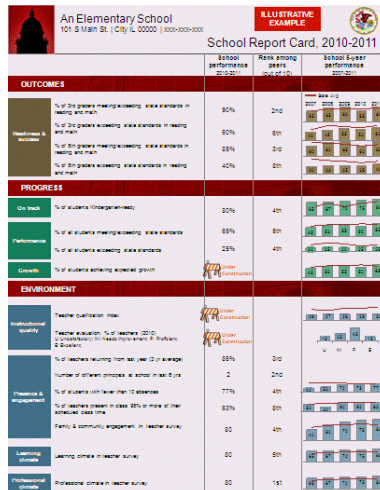
## High school/Grades 9-12



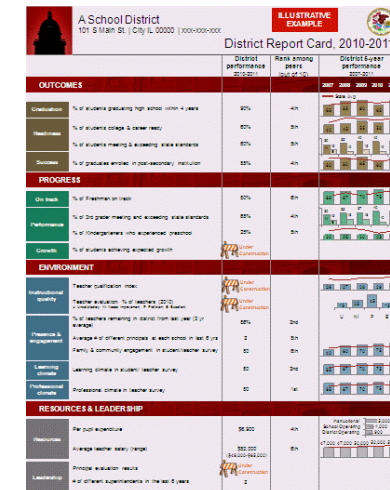
## Middle school/Grades 6-8



## Elementary school/Grades K-5



## District



Note: Adjustments will be made for varying school level configurations (e.g. K-8)

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# Focus groups aim to get perspectives across Illinois from key stakeholders

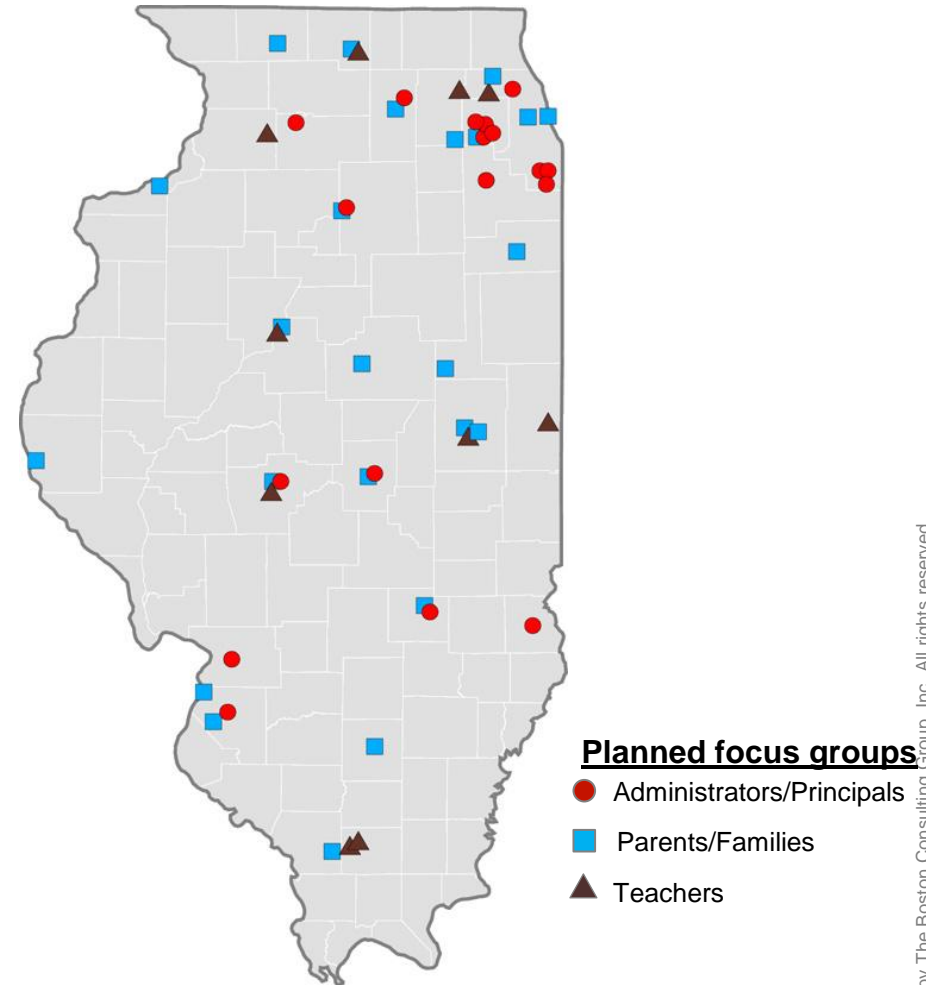
## Targeted six key stakeholder groups

- District or state administrators
- Principals
- Teachers
- Families
- Students
- Community members

## Aiming for broad geographic representation

- North, Central and South regions of Illinois
- Communities with varied population density

## Focus group leads aiming for 5-10 participants per session



**Subcommittee welcomes additional focus groups with families, community members, and students in August<sup>1</sup>**

1. If interested in helping to coordinate a focus group, please contact Joan Vitale at [jvitale@voices4kids.org](mailto:jvitale@voices4kids.org)



# Focus group discussions to pressure test and gather feedback on alpha version of report card

## Focus group objectives

### Gain perspectives from key stakeholders

- To what extent is a report card useful and relevant?
- Do the guiding questions represent the broad categories of information sought?
- Are the specific metrics clear, easy to understand?
- Are the specific metrics the most important, relevant information?
  - What is especially important? What is not? What is missing?
- Is the data presentation and report card design insightful, clear, easy to read?
- Is the context information about the school sufficient and appropriate?

## Approach and design

Based on commercial client experience from BCG Center for Consumer Insight, the team has designed a focus group approach that pulls on a variety of techniques

### Unaided awareness

*Initial survey before seeing report card or hearing other opinions*

### Initial reaction

*Shortened version of report card shared for initial reaction, what is missing*

### Deep dive on metrics

*Introduction of report card long form, voting and probing questions on specific metrics*

### Design and distribution

*Discussion on perception, preferences*

### Debrief survey

*Wrap up discussion followed by survey to capture overall views, specific questions*

# Select metrics to be tested during "deep dive" discussion in focus groups

## Outcomes

### Success (High school)

- Included on alpha version % of high school graduates enrolled in post-secondary school within 2 semesters after graduation<sup>1</sup>
- To be tested in focus groups Is there desire to report career success?

## Progress

### Performance (All school levels)

- Included on alpha version
  - % of students meeting/exceeding on state standards on composite score
  - % of student exceeding on state standards on composite score
- To be tested in focus groups Would breaking out subject-specific exam scores (e.g. reading, math) provide helpful insight for parents and families?

## Environment

### Instructional quality (All school levels)

- Included on alpha version Teacher qualification index – a combination of academic achievement characteristics which contribute to student outcomes according to research<sup>2</sup>
- To be tested in focus groups What do parents and families want to know about the academic achievements of teachers in their schools?

### Presence & engagement – Teacher attendance (All school levels)

- Included on alpha version % of teachers present in class 95% or more of their scheduled class time
- To be tested in focus groups Does the "present in class" metric resonate with parents and families?

1. Post-secondary institutions include colleges, universities, community colleges and trade/vocational schools. 2. Characteristics being considered – ACT/SAT score, masters' degree, university caliber, emergency/provisionally certified, content exam scores

# Way forward

## Refine "one pager" report cards based on

- Focus group feedback
- Inputs from this group and continuing discussions in the state
- Cost-benefit analysis

## Continue design of detailed report cards (online edition)

## Develop implementation strategy – roll out approach, communication plan

## Get final feedback and prepare for legislative session

To provide additional feedback, please contact the BCG team –

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## Appendix

- Report card mock-ups being used in focus groups